8. An annual Conference of Ayurveda Physicians in and outside Travancore should be held every year.

9. Manuscripts of Works on Ayurveda should be collected and printed.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

113. Certain suggestions for the improvement of the Ayurveda Department with special reference to the Thiruvella taluk and the opening of dispensaries for curing snake-bites.

Mr. K. I. Kochippan Mappila (Member, Nominated) put in an earnest plea for the Ayurvedic system of medical treatment as being best suited to the climatic conditions of the country and observed that the organisation of the Ayurveda Department and the great encouragement given to it were a great boon to the people of the State. Further development of the activities and usefulness of the department was highly desirable. He, therefore, submitted the following suggestions for the improvement of the department:—

(i) The pay of the staff of the Ayurveda Patasala should be revised and the staff placed on an equal footing with members of other departments.

(ii) The building in which the Patasala was conducted was most unsuitable for the purpose; a better building with sufficient accommodation and proper ventilation should be constructed at an early date.

(iii) The Patasala should be raised to a College on modern lines.

(iv) There was only one Vaidyan on Rs. 25 per mensem who was in charge of the Pharmacy. He had to look after the collection and stocking of medicinal herbs and substances, the preparation of medicines and their distribution and sale. That was more than what one Vaidyan could possibly do. Yet, his pay was fixed at such a low figure as Rs. 25. More Vaidyans and a subordinate staff should be appointed on decent pay.

(v) Machine labour should be utilised in the preparation of the necessary drugs, oils, *Thailams*, &c.

(vi) Medicines prepared in the Pharmacy should be made available for sale in all the Vaidyasalas of the State.

(vii) The building taken up on rent for holding the Ayurveda Hospital at Trivandrum was ill-suited for the purpose. There should be separate buildings for the in-patient and out-patient departments.

(viii) The pay of the Vaidyans in the Ayurveda Hospital should be substantially raised.

(ix) A Vaidyasala should be opened in each taluk. The site and building should be provided by the people. The appointment of trained and skilled Vaidyans should be made by Government.

(x) Medicines should be sold to the patients at a moderate cost.

(xi) The pay of the Director of Ayurveda, which was less than that of a Deputy Surgeon in the Medical Department, should be raised.

The Member then referred to the numerous cases of deaths from snake-bite in the Thiruvella taluk during the last 2 years. In 1094 there were 949 cases of snake-bite against 861 cases in 1093. Up to Kumbhom 1095 there were 438 cases. For the treatment of such cases, there was only one Visha Vaidyasala at Aranmula. For want of easy means of communication and good cartable roads, Aranmula was not readily accessible, especially during the monsoon when the rivers would be full an impassable. Any delay in the treatment of cases of snake-bite meant loss of life and it was highly necessary that there should be a number of Visha Vaidyasalas in

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the different parts of the taluk. In the interests of the people of the eastern *pakuthies* of the taluk which were infested with deadly venomous snakes, he prayed that at least one more Vaidyasala should be established there.

Dewan's reply.—A Visha Vaidyasala will be opened this year as requested by the Member, at a suitable place in the eastern *pakuthies* of the taluk to be fixed by the Director of Ayurveda. Special funds will be sanctioned for the pur ose this year. The other points are noted for consideration.

114. Improvement of Government medical aid for Colachel.

Mr. N. Kunjan Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Colachel) represented that the Colachel dispensary was one of the oldest dispensaries in the State and was of great use to the people of the Eraniel taluk. The Mission Hospital at Neyyoor was not so useful to the poor people, as they were unable to pay the exorbitant cost of medicines demanded in the institution. For the treatment of in-patients also heavy charges had to be paid. Even for the conduct of minor operations the people had now to go to the hospital at Nagercoil and they suffered immense hardship thereby. Colachel was in an insanitary condition and was frequently visited by epidemics. Formerly, in-patients were admitted and treated in the dispensary, but that was subsequently discontinued. The want of an in-patient ward was greatly felt. He, therefore, requested that the local Dispensary be raised to the status of a Hospital, with provision for in-patients.

The Member then stated that there was no institution at Colachel for the treatment of cattle diseases and that the ryots of the taluk were often put to great inconveniences and loss on account of cattle disease. The sick animals had to be taken all the way to the Nagercoil Veterinary Hospital and many died on the way. The bulls brought from foreign places for sale in the Monday Market were the media of the diseases and there was no possibility of prompt medical aid for the sick animals. In the interests of the agriculturists of the taluk, the Member prayed that a Veterinary Dispensary might be established at Colachel.

Dewan's reply.—It is under contemplation to construct a new building in another place for the Colachel Dispensary. The matter is under correspondence between the Durbar Physician and the Chief Engineer. The question of providing a few beds for in-patients will be considered. The other point is noted.

115. Establishment of a hospital at Kuzhithura.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Kuzhithura) submitted that the people of Vilavancode did not receive much benefit from the Mission Hospital at Marthandam, as the people had to pay for medical aid there. While the State rendered free medical aid in all other taluks, the people of Vilavancode taluk alone had to purchase medicines from the Mission Hospital. Though the subject had been repeatedly urged before the Assembly, nothing had as yet been done to remove the grievances of the people in the matter. The necessity for a hospital at Kuzhithura had been admitted by Government on former occasions, but the people had not yet succeeded in getting one established in their place. Epidemics frequently visited the place and numerous deaths occurred. The *pakuthies* of Arumana, Kaliyal and Edakode were malarial and people suffering from malaria had to go to distant places for getting medicines. He, therefore, prayed that the Parassala Dispensary might be removed to Kuzhithura or located in a place midway between Parassala and Kuzhithura and that a medical officer with necessary supply of medicines be arranged to visit the three *pakuthies* mentioned above at least 10 days in the month. He also requested that arrangements be made with the Mission authorities to appoint a medical graduate in charge of their hospital at Marthandam. In conclusion, the Member urged the necessity for a well-equipped Government hospital at Kuzhithura.

Dewan's reply.—Government are not convinced of the necessity or a separate Hospital at Kuzhithura.

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